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alike, or *doll* and *dial* alike, in spite of the difference in spelling [examples cited by Professor Babbitt], at least those of them who wish to pass as well educated, would perhaps then feel a force exerted on them urging them to conformity with some recognized good usage. Our present spelling hides the real facts of divergence, and not being recognized they can the less easily be fought against.

I welcome the coming of chaos in orthography if it is to be the prelude to a better uniformity. Ultimately such better—much better—uniformity I believe is sure to come, though it may not be achieved even in this century.

10. "The Influence of German Opera upon Grillparzer." By Dr. Edward S. Meyer, of Western Reserve University. [In the absence of the author, this paper was read by title.]

11. "The Work of the American Dialect Society." By Professor O. F. Emerson, of Western Reserve University.

In presenting and emphasizing the work of the American Dialect Society, no apology is made for its absolute importance. Its relative importance to us as individuals may be variously estimated. But that a study of the spoken language of any country is fundamental to a correct and adequate knowledge of its linguistic basis ought not to be argued to-day.

The seriousness of our work is put first because one stumbling block to our progress is the misunderstanding of our aims. The study of dialect too often suggests the dilettante collector. This may be partly due to the apparent lack of seriousness in some of our published word-lists. But in reality there is ample justification for these. It is important to collect even the apparently ephemeral, the so-called slang, and the evident colloquialisms, since these often contain words which have merely dropped out of the literary language, or those which are equally valuable in illustrating some principle of linguistic development.

It is not necessary to consider the objection to our endeavors, less commonly urged at present, that there are no dialects in America. Notwithstanding considerable uniformity in the spoken language, as compared with older countries, a close examination shows many important changes since English was first introduced into this country. There are also many "speech-islands" in which the linguistic development has been but slightly effected by external influences for one or two centuries. The development of foreign languages on American soil is also well worth systematic study.

As to our own language, the work may be divided into two kinds, of quite different sort. The first is an exact study of phonology and inflection, or all grammatical forms, after the most exact methods of Germany. Of such studies we need some for each great dialectal division of the country, as New England, the North Central region, the South Atlantic

states, the South Central states, the Midland district parallel to Mason and Dixon's line on both sides, and the extreme West.

Following English models also, the Dialect Society has always emphasized the collection of lexical material, that is, words and phrases of strictly dialectal usage. This is a vast field, in which a much larger number of active workers is necessary. Individual collections, though small, are also important. Local Societies can be of immense service without extraordinarily taxing the time or energy of anyone. Readers of American books are needed to gather from American literature of the last two hundred years all words used dialectally. Finally we need much assistance in localizing words already known to be dialectal in various parts of the country, and now in printed collections, as in Bartlett's *Americanisms*. We wish to know exactly where such words are used, approximately for each state, after which we shall be ready to bring all these results together in a great dialect dictionary for the whole country.

It is needless to say, yet important to reiterate, that the American Dialect Society needs more vigorous financial support. The English Society has been asking for an annual subscription of one guinea for thirty years. Our own annual fee of one dollar is so small that it need not tax anybody. Yet we have a comparatively small membership, and consequently an inconsiderable sum with which to publish. With adequate support our activities could be greatly increased and would surely meet with your approbation.

12. "Biblical Names in Early Modern English." By Professor George H. McKnight, of Ohio State University. [Read by title.]

13. "On Verner's Law." By Dr. Herbert Z. Kip, of Vanderbilt University. [Read by title.]

14. "The Relations of *Hamlet* to Contemporary Revenge Plays." By Dr. Ashley H. Thorndike, of Western Reserve University. [Read by title.] [See *Publications*, xvii, 2, p. 125.]

### THIRD SESSION, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27.

The session began at 3 p. m.

15. "The Home of *King Horn* and of *Sir Tristrem*." By Dr. W. H. Schofield, of Harvard University.

16. "The Legends of Horn and of Bevis." By Mr. P. C. Hoyt, of Harvard University. [See *Publications*, xvii, 2, p. 237.]

17. "Literary Adaptations in Gerhart Hauptmann's *Ver-sunkene Glocke*." By Professor Henry Wood, of Johns Hopkins University.

18. "Lessing's Attitude toward the Sources of his Dramas." By Dr. Albert Haas, of Bryn Mawr College.

19. "The Origin of the Negro Dialect in the United States." By Professor George Hempl, of the University of Michigan. [Read by title, owing to the absence of the author.]

20. "Conflicting Standards in French Literature at the Opening of the Twentieth Century." By Dr. A. Schinz, of Bryn Mawr College. [See *The Bookman*, 1902, Nov., p. 252.]

21. "A List of Hated Words," By Professor F. N. Scott, of the University of Michigan.

22. "Literal Repetition in Anglo-Saxon Poetry." By Dr. William W. Lawrence, of Harvard University. [Read by title.]

23. "The Date and Composition of *The Old Law* (Middleton, Rowley, Massinger)." By Professor Edgar Coit Morris. [Read by title.] [See *Publications*, xvii, 1, p. 1.]

24. "The Life and Works of Heinrich der Teichner." By Professor J. B. E. Jonas, of Brown University. [Read by title.]

The Auditing Committee reported that the Treasurer's accounts were found to be correct.

In the evening the members of the Association were entertained at the Colonial Club. Mr. Bliss Perry, Editor of the